of prices. This year the price has been revised four times by STC.

2. At none of the meetings prior to 29th July, 1991 has STC informed the newspaper industry of any unadjusted liabilities.

3. On July 3, the newsprint prices were revised to take into account both the devaluations and it was decided to review the prices after a month in case there was further deterioration in the exchange rate. There was no information given at the time by STC of a Rs. 60 crore liability which it is now trying to pass on to the newsprint users. The minutes of the meeting will bear this out.

4. The quantity of newsprint brought by the newspapers earlier has all been used and sold in the form of newspapers to the readers. It is impossible for the newspapers to realise this Rs. 60 crores from readers now. *This is a retrospective levy,* for which there is no retorspective recovery for the user.

5. The newspapers pay for the newsprint in advance before delivery. If STC has chosen not to pay the suppliers and retain this money for all those months/years to their advantage then they must bear the consequences of it too. How can helpless users be expected to pay for the foreign exchange risks of STC where such a forward cover is commonly available and is easily rolled over to any desired period?

6. STC is exploiting its position as a monopoly importer with a captive market and is attempting to pass the cost of its blunders to the hapless consumer.

This new unexpected burden on the price of newsprint is beyond the means of newspapers to bear specially the small and medium newspapers will definitely result in closures.

Decanalising the import of edible oils

1641. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to meet the scarcity of edible oils, Government have decided to decanalise the import of edible oils;

(b) if so, the precise situation and circumstances warranting the decision; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure the availability of imported edible oils through Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since the edible oil is still in the list of canalised items for import, the allocation thereof to States/UTs through Public Distribution System will be made as and when the imports are effected.

Haldia Petro-Complex Scheme

1642. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the broad features of the Haldia Petro-Complex Scheme indicating its foreign exchange contents; and

(b) how the foreign exchange content is sought to be secured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) West Bengal Indus-